

honored with a Superior Performance Award in 1980, a Commander Award for Civilian Service in 1988 and 1999, a Special Act of Service Award in 1991, the Superior Civilian Service Award in 1992, and a Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1996.

Madam Speaker, Robert Woody is a valuable member of his community and his leadership will be greatly missed. Mr. Woody plans to travel with his companion, continuing farming, teaching Fire Science and Safety with Missouri's Division of Fire Safety, and spending time with his two sons, Andy and Adam. As he begins the next phase of his life, I know the Members of the House will join me in thanking Robert Woody for his service to the Fort Leonard Wood Fire Department and wish him well as he begins his retirement.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, no single action this Congress could take would have a more profound, more life-affirming impact than allocating federal funds for biomedical scientists to conduct research with human embryonic stem cells. Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, brain and spinal cord disorders, diabetes, cancer—at least 58 diseases could potentially be cured through stem cell research. Diseases that touch every family here in America and throughout the world.

And Mr. Speaker, I stand here as someone who understands the promise of biomedical research all too well. Having been diagnosed with ovarian cancer by chance on an unrelated doctor's visit two decades ago, I know first-hand how this research can change lives—it saved mine. It can quite literally mean the difference between life and death. Between hope and despair.

To be clear, I think it is safe to say that every Member of this body is excited about the recent news regarding the scientific potential in amniotic stem cells. One can only imagine the medical breakthroughs this research has in store for us.

But scientists tell us it is no replacement for embryonic research—just as the limited number of stem cell lines President Bush made available in 2001 were not a replacement for full federal funding of this research. Indeed, this finding simply reminds us how critical it is that we pursue any and every kind of research that can contribute to our understanding of these diseases—so long as we can ensure it is performed with the utmost dignity and ethical responsibility. That is what “expanding stem cell research” is all about.

And for sure, this legislation does just that—permitting peer-reviewed federal funds to only be used with public oversight and by only allowing research on embryos that were originally created for fertility treatment purposes and that are in excess of clinical need and will otherwise be destroyed.

I believe the real moral issue here is whether the United States Congress is going to stand in the way of science and preclude the scientists from doing lifesaving, ethical re-

search. We do not live in the Dark Ages—and nor should our public policy. With this vote, this Congress has an opportunity to show the world we are a country that believes science has the power to advance life.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are such a country. The world has always looked to America as a beacon of hope precisely because of our capacity to use our abundant resources to promote the best ideas in the world. Let's continue that tradition. Let's lead the way—let's support this bill.

HONORING TONY GWYNN'S ELEC-
TION TO BASEBALL HALL OF
FAME

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Tony Gwynn and congratulate him on his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame. This high honor caps a career of great accomplishment, respect for the game, the fans and his team the San Diego Padres.

Tony is an all around athlete having been drafted by both the Padres and Clippers before focusing on his baseball career. He is a member of the exclusive 3,000 hit club, a five-time gold glove winner at right field and an eight-time National League Batting Champion. These numbers are amazing enough but adding to that the Roberto Clemente award for dedication to community and 15 trips to the All-Star Game at the request of baseball fans worldwide shows the love and respect fans of baseball showed to him as well.

Congratulations on your election today to the Baseball Hall of Fame. I am proud of you Tony, you deserve it and the best of luck in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PFC PAUL
BALINT, JR.

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On December 15, 2006, Army Private First Class Paul Balint, Jr. (B Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division) died in Al Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Private Balint had served in the Army for over a year and in Iraq for three months, before sustaining fatal injuries during an attack on his battalion.

Balint was known as a loyal friend and soldier. His parents remember him as a compassionate man and a mediator, always thinking about others and wanting to make sure everyone was having a good time. He also had a love for hip-hop music and was going to add music to the home videos he filmed while in Iraq.

His parents had no doubts about what their son wanted to do with his life. He was going to be a soldier. Balint used to recite the “The Soldiers Creed” at the kitchen table while his

mother cooked. When his father asked him what he wanted to do, he said he “wanted to be in the infantry.” When his father then asked him about the issue of Iraq, Balint responded that he wanted to go “fight that stuff.”

Balint enlisted in the armed forces in Willow Park, Texas, with his brother, mother and father at his side.

After completing basic training, Balint had the Soldiers Creed branded into memory, and into his heart.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Private Balint, I would like to read aloud the Soldiers Creed.

THE SOLDIERS CREED

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Private Balint is gone, but he will never be forgotten. God Speed to his family and to the United States of America.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the issue of embryonic stem cell research places humanity on the frontier of medical science and at the outer edge of moral theology.

On the side of science there is much hope, even expectation that extraordinarily effective therapies will be developed to treat—and possibly cure—a wide range of maladies such as diabetes, Parkinson's, spinal cord injury and a host of others. Progress has been achieved in the laboratory in animal studies and in human application. Much has yet to be learned, however, about adverse outcomes, which is why scientists proceed cautiously without over promising and with respect for the moral considerations of their research.

The latter gives me the greatest pause. An editorial in America Magazine said it well: “The debate over embryonic stem cell research cannot be fully resolved because it is ignited by irreconcilable views of what reverence for life requires.”

Let us recall Louise Brown, the first test tube baby. Her life began in vitro, as a fertilized egg. There are many potential Louise Browns, potential human beings conceived in the laboratory but leftover as cryogenic embryos. Are they to be discarded, or, can they ethically be used for stem cell research? That is the moral theology issue that we must resolve.

The reality is that human life is established in creating an embryo, whether in vitro or in